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ABSTRACT

Twenty-three Vietnamese families in Little Rock and 12 in Grannis were interviewed to investigate and compare the variables associated with the acculturation of rural and urban refugees. Since the majority of the families in Grannis did not speak English, three Vietnamese interpreters assisted with the interviews. Information was obtained on the families' characteristics, housing accomodations, adjustment to the area and neighborhood, attitudes toward childbearing, membership in clubs and associations, employment, adjustment to American society, language, and religion. A comparison of the patterns of acculturation/assimilation was made by testing whether any significant differences were found in the acculturation/assimilation of urban and rural refugees, of young and old refugees, of male and female refugees, and of the better educated and those with less education. Findings included: the ability to speak English, the desire to become American citizens, and the ability to drive a car were among the factors assisting the acculturation/assimilation process of these refugees; contact with American friends and the desire to learn American ways of life were important factors which helped the Vietnamese in Little Rock adjust to living in America; adequate employment and income aided the acculturation/assimilation process; the lack of English speaking ability, the desire to return to Vietnam, and the lack of a good education and of adequate employment hindered the acculturation process. (NQ)

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ED142343

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELOCATED VIETNAMESE IN RURAL AND URBAN ARKANSAS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Sociology-Independent Study

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Spring 1976

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PROLOGUE

Vietnam is a country located in Southeast Asia and has been divided into 2 states (North Vietnam and South Vietnam) since 1954. The Republic of Vietnam commonly referred to as South Vietnam has a population of 21,000,000 people. South Vietnam had as its capital Saigon, but Saigon was renamed to Ho Chi Minh City in April 1975 after the Communist takeover. Saigon in earlier years used to be referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient." But, after approximately 25 years of civil war between North and South Vietnam, it represented or showed the effects of a war ravaged country. South Vietnam is comprised mostly of small villages. The country is an agrarian society but has a few cities such as Da Nang, Saigon, and Hue which represented the urban areas of South Vietnam.

In April 1975, South Vietnam's history was changed. The country of South Vietnam was defeated by North Vietnam ending years of conflict by both parties. However, this was not the end of South Vietnam's problems. According to a recent report by U.S. News and World Report: "Unemployment is widespread. Many small shops are closed. Only the black market seems to flourish. The price of medicine has risen 10 times. In an effort to relieve overcrowded cities and increase farm productions, the North Vietnamese forced 1.5 million South Vietnamese to move to so-called New Economic Zones. According to a World Health Organization report, the country is infested with malaria, bubonic plague, leprosy, tuberculosis and venereal disease.

Hanoi keeps 16 army divisions in the South to help in reconstruction and to curb dissent. Rebel units continue to wage guerrilla war in the countryside.

South Vietnamese still flee their country, hoping to join more than 130,000 who found refuge in America. This report is about a few of those 130,000 Vietnamese refugees who have settled in Arkansas.

INTRODUCTION

In May of 1975 Fort Chaffee (located at Fort Smith, Arkansas) began receiving refugees from South Vietnam, who had left their homeland after the Communist takeover. These Vietnamese refugees, along with others from camps across the United States, were relocated in various rural and urban areas in Arkansas.

In November of 1975 several students in a Sociology course at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock began observing the various adjustment processes of the Vietnamese relocated in Arkansas. As part of this study they traveled to Grannis, Arkansas, a small town in Western Arkansas to study the new lives of several families in Grannis.

In January of 1976 these students submitted a request to the "Donaghey Foundation" for research funds for a comparative study of the relocated Vietnamese in rural and urban Arkansas. The students interviewed a total of forty-six families in Little Rock and Grannis. These interviews were conducted in the homes of the Vietnamese people. Objectives of the interviews were to investigate and compare the variables associated with the acculturation of rural and urban refugees of Arkansas. Through the case histories which were compiled by the students, a comparison of the patterns of acculturation and assimilation was made by testing the following four hypothesis:

Hypotheses

1. No significant difference will be found in the acculturation/assimilation of urban and rural refugees.
2. No significant difference will be found in the acculturation/assimilation of young and old refugees.

3. No significant difference will be found in the acculturation/assimilation of male and female refugees.

4. No significant differences will be found in the acculturation/assimilation of the better educated and those with less education.

The Research Design

This is a study of 23 Vietnamese families in the Little Rock area and 12 Vietnamese families in Grannis, Arkansas.

Most of the interviews were conducted in the homes of the Vietnamese families. Every family was most gracious in its hospitality and willingness to talk to the student-interviewers.

A series of questions which could be easily understood was used in the interviews. The first set of questions was used to obtain general background information.

Part 1 deals with the housing accomodations of the families, and their adjustment to the area and to the neighborhood.

Part 2 deals with family characteristics and attitudes toward childrearing.

Part 3 deals with membership in clubs and associations.

Part 4 deals with employment and adjustment to American society.

Part 5 deals with language.

Part 6 deals with religion.

(See appendix for a copy of the questionnaire)

Acculturation is that sociological concept which describes the extent to which immigrants learn the habits, customs, and beliefs of their new culture. This study is an attempt to determine and compare the factors which may assist or hinder the acculturation/assimilation process of the Vietnamese refugees in rural and urban areas of Arkansas.

Immigrants or refugees are said to be assimilated into the host society when they take part in, and are accepted in, the activities of the host society, such as social clubs, interest groups and civic organizations. The immigrant may begin to identify with the host society as he takes on its attitudes and values.

Acceptance by the host society is crucial to this process because in the absence of his being allowed to enter into the interactional activities of that society, the refugee may not be permitted to reach full assimilation.

Caution must be exercised in any study on acculturation, because there seems to be a tendency to view acculturation merely as a quick, preliminary step to subsequent and readily achieved assimilation. This does not always prove to be the case. In some cases the immigrant may absorb the behavior patterns of the host society, while not accepting its attitudes and value system.

It is not necessarily our assumption that assimilation must occur. The cultural pluralist model views the United States as a cooperation of culturally diverse groups. Attention should be paid to all components that make up the total society.

The case history form was used in order to add depth and interest to the data collected in the interviews. The following are the 22 interviews conducted with the Vietnamese refugees in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Section I: Interviews in Little Rock, Arkansas

Introduction

Liz Dumond conducted the following four interviews during several lunch periods in a factory in the Little Rock area on various days during a two week span. The Vietnamese were introduced to the interviewer by mutual friends at the factory. The rapport developed into a friendship, with the interviewer later being a dinner guest in the homes of the Vietnamese on several occasions, including a party on Lunar New Year.

LR - 1

Ms. H. is a 26 year old Vietnamese girl from Saigon. She has 5 brothers and 4 sisters. She and one of her sisters live with their sponsors in southwest Little Rock.

They left Vietnam because they were afraid of what the Communists would do to them. She was once badly hurt in a bomb attack in Saigon while she was riding a motorcycle home.

She likes living in Little Rock very much. She would like to have a home of her own when she gets married. She thinks that two children, one boy and one girl, are enough. She thinks it would be easier to raise children in Vietnam because she could stay home with them and teach them. Because of the high cost of living here, she would have to work instead of staying home with the children. She thinks that her children will have better lives compared to hers, when they grow up.

She is employed at a local watch factory. She likes her job but thinks that it is too tiring. She also works part-time at a florist shop. In Vietnam she worked in a travel agency. She would like to work in a travel agency here, in the States, also.

She wants to become an American citizen. She wants to return to Vietnam someday. She feels that if she is an American citizen when she returns to Vietnam the Communists will not harm her.

Ms. H. thinks that Vietnamese women have more freedom here than in Vietnam. She said that in Vietnam the wife is not allowed to go out unless accompanied by her husband. In Vietnam the wife is not allowed to disobey her husband. She feels that this will be different here, and she likes that.

She speaks English fairly well, and is attending a class at UALR. She and her sister speak English at home, because, she says, it would not be polite to speak Vietnamese in front of the sponsors.

Ms. H. is a Catholic. She attends the non-denominational church of her sponsors now, but wants to go to a Catholic church in the future.

Ms. H. likes living here very much and she wants to have many American friends. She is eager to learn about America and is trying to learn to speak English better. She likes the freedom that women have here. These factors seem to point toward greater ease in acculturation.

Acculturation is impeded by her desire to return to Vietnam someday. She thinks it would be easier to raise children in Vietnam because the women stay home and do not have to work.

LR - 2

Mr. L. is a 33 year old Vietnamese man. He was born in Saigon, where his parents still live. He has two brothers. He left Vietnam because of the danger, and does not intend to return. He has 12 years of education.

He likes his job at a local watch factory, but would like to make more money. He presently earns $3.25 an hour. His wife, Mrs. L. also works at the watch factory. He does not like for his wife to work, but says that they need the extra money.

Mrs. L. is 28 years old and is also from Saigon. They live in a six room apartment in a government housing project. The apartment was unfurnished, but friends gave them the furniture. They both like living in Little Rock.

They are Buddhist. They were married at home in 1965, and they have three sons, ages 3, 5 and 7. They would like to have one more child, a girl.

They both speak English fairly well. The children are learning English, but they speak only Vietnamese at home. They attend a class at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

They attend the non-denominational church of their sponsors. They do not belong to any clubs, because they do not know of any yet. They joined the union at the watch factory where they work, but want to quit because the dues are too high. They both want to become American citizens.

They disagree on the question of more or less freedom for Vietnamese women in America. Mr. L. thinks that Vietnamese women have more freedom in America, but Mr. L. thinks that Vietnamese women are too busy here, in America. She preferred her role in Vietnam, staying home and caring for the children.

Mrs. L. thinks that it is better to have only a few children. She says that she would be poor if she had many children and had to pay the babysitter and the school. She thinks the United States is better for raising children. Mr. L. wants to have a farm but his wife wants to live in the city.

Mr. L. and his wife are moving toward acculturation. They are in contact with many Americans where they work. They are friendly and outgoing and are eager to speak English and to learn more about Arkansas and America. They attend an English class at UALR. Mr. L. drives a car and they are able to get around the city. They do not intend to return to Vietnam, and they want to become American citizens. These factors point to a desire to identify with American culture.

They eat mostly Vietnamese food and bring their lunch to work rather than eating in the cafeteria. They speak Vietnamese at home. These factors tend to slow down their rate of acculturation.

LR - 3

Ms. T. is a 20 year old Vietnamese girl. She was born and raised in Saigon. Her parents still live in Saigon. She left Vietnam in April, 1975, and after stops in Guam and Fort Chaffee, arrived in Little Rock in August, 1975. She has had 12 years of education. She plans to return to Vietnam. She intends to stay here only a short time, but the future is uncertain.

She and her older sister live with their sponsor in a three-bedroom house in a suburban area of southwestern Little Rock. She likes living in the neighborhood and she likes Little Rock. She would like to have 2 to 4 children when she gets married, and she thinks that it is better to have only a small number of children. Even though she plans to return to Vietnam, she would like to become an American citizen.

She likes her job at a local watch factory where she is doing production work. She is saving most of her money for her return to Vietnam. She speaks very little English, and would like to attend an English class. She is Buddhist, but now attends the non-denominational church of her sponsors. The sponsors do not want her to date, go out, watch TV, smoke or wear make-up. She tries to respect their wishes. They attend church meetings in the homes of the members twice a week.

The acculturation/assimilation process for Ms. T. is assisted by the fact that she likes living in her neighborhood, and likes her job. Although she does not speak English, she wants to attend a class.

The acculturation/assimilation process for her is hindered by the fact that she does not speak English. Her desire to return to Vietnam is very strong, evidenced by the fact that she is saving her money for the trip back home, to Vietnam.

LR - 4

Ms. D. is a 25 year old Vietnamese girl from Phan Thiet, a large city in central Vietnam. She has two brothers. She left Vietnam in April 1975, and arrived in Little Rock in August 1975, after staying at Fort Chaffee. She said that she left Vietnam because she had favored the United States Government. She thinks she may return to Vietnam in the future, but not now.

Ms. D. lives with her sponsor's family in North Little Rock. There are four people in the sponsor's family and they have a nine room home. She likes living in the neighborhood.

Ms. D. is single, and she would like to have two children when she marries. She thinks that it is better to have fewer children because she could take care of them better. She thinks that raising children in Vietnam would be the same, although she says it would be more comfortable here, in the United States.

She is not a member of any clubs. She said that it would depend on the kind of club whether she would want to join or not.

She was employed by the United States government as a blood typist in Vietnam, and now works at a local watch factory on the production line. She thinks that this job is satisfactory for the present.

Ms. D. thinks that the liberty of Vietnamese women is the same here, the United States, as it was in Vietnam. She speaks English fairly well and studies at home and would like to attend a class.

She is Catholic and attends a Catholic church in North Little Rock. She has not visited any other churches and has always been of the Catholic faith. She does intend to become an American citizen.

Ms. D. is moving toward acculturation very well. She speaks English and is trying to learn more. Working with Americans in Vietnam has helped speed up her acculturation/assimilation process. She likes the neighborhood in which she resides, and her job.

Since Ms. D. does not belong to any clubs, acculturation is slowed. Her desire to return to her native country, Vietnam, someday is also a factor which hinders her acculturation/assimilation process.

Introduction:

The following three interviews were conducted by Suzanne Yancey in the Little Rock area. The first was conducted after a dinner in the home of the interviewer, and two were conducted during visits to the homes of the Vietnamese respondents. The first interview was made possible when the student interviewer was introduced to a male Vietnamese refugee by a mutual friend. The second interview was brought about by an introduction to a friend of the first respondent. The third interview developed when the student interviewer approached a Vietnamese couple who conduct business regularly at her place of employment. Another Vietnamese couple that was contacted in this manner did not wish to consent to being interviewed. All interviews were conducted in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and were followed by a letter of appreciation from the student interviewer to the kind respondents.

LR - 5

Mr. H. is a 25 year old unmarried male born in Saigon, Vietnam. He has chosen an American name, John, which he now prefers to his Vietnamese name. He has three older sisters and a mother still residing in Vietnam. His father was killed in the Army when he was 3 years old. His mother was left with the responsibility of supporting the family. She worked as a realtor before and during the war in Vietnam. His two older sisters are pharmacists, and his younger sister attends college in Vietnam.

Mr. H. feels sad that he had no father image to emulate while growing up in Vietnam, no father to teach him to be more manly. He believes that since he was raised in a household of women that he is more "sentimental" than other men and because of this he was often falsely associated with homosexuality in his country. He feels this was because he had only his mother and sisters to pattern his behavior after.

Mr. H. is not a member of any clubs or organizations in America, but was a member of the Vietnamese Press Association in Vietnam. He would like very much to become an American citizen. He would return to Vietnam if the situation permitted, but only to visit. He is happy in America, but misses his family and friends. He wants to marry an American woman, as he believes this would assist him in learning more about the United States, and would make his adjustment to American life an easier one.

When Mr. H. marries he would like to have 2 to 3 children, believing that he would be able to take better care of fewer children. He believes it would be easier to raise children in the United States because of the advantages of better medical care, education, etc. However, he said the love or "affection" felt for the children would be the same regardless of country. In Vietnam he says it is an economic asset to have more children because the children work and take their money home to their parents.

Mr. H. says whether his wife would work or not would depend on the woman he marries. He believes that women have more freedom here, in the United States. He said in Vietnam married women are forbidden to shake hands with men other than their husbands. Their home and family are supposed to be the center of their lives, and they have little or no outside interests. When they marry, they view it as liberty because the family size and their responsibilities decrease for a while. In Vietnam, knowledge of homemaking is more important than knowledge about social or political affairs. Vietnamese women are not allowed to associate as freely with or have as many male friends as American women. However, education is increasing in importance for Vietnamese women.

Mr. H. has 14 years of education, attending college for two years. He is now employed with a local television station as a photographer at $650.00 per month and is very happy with his occupation. He was formerly

employed as a photographer during the war in Vietnam with ABC news. He speaks English very well, and has no difficulty communicating. He also speaks French fluently.

He is of the Roman Catholic faith, and although he attended church on a regular basis while in Vietnam, he no longer attends regularly. He has visited three Protestant churches since his arrival in the United States.

He left Vietnam because he knew there would be no more freedom there and he did not want to live under Communism. He rents his 5 room apartment and likes his neighborhood and the city of Little Rock. However, he would prefer a larger city with weather more consistent with that of Vietnam. At the present time he plans to move to San Diego where he has been offered a better paying job as a photographer. He believes living in a larger city will give him the opportunity to make more American friends, and possibly meet a future wife.

Mr. H. seems to place great value on the friendship of his American friends, and expresses no desire to associate with other Vietnamese refugees. He believes that they try to retain too many customs, talk too much about Vietnam, and spread rumors. He believes that many Vietnamese are not willing to give up Vietnamese ways, keeping their own attitudes and customs, and in his opinion offering nothing to the American way of life.

Mr. H. is buying and drives a new automobile. He seems very happy in America which he says is a peaceful country. He expresses both verbally and in his behavior a strong desire to become "Americanized" and attaches himself to anything he considers a source toward this goal.

LR - 6

Mrs. M. is a 29 year old female, born in Saigon, South Vietnam. She married an American serviceman in Vietnam in 1967, in a Catholic ceremony. Catholicism is her religion and she attends a local Catholic church weekly, which was her practice in Vietnam. Her American husband is 47 years old and is of the Protestant faith. She visited a Baptist church with her mother-in-law.

She arrived in Little Rock in 1968, and her only other place of residence has been Saigon where all the members of her family are still located. She is from a large family consisting of eleven children. Her husband was from a family of four children.

Mrs. M. has a 9th grade education and while in Vietnam was employed on a military base as an accountant. She is now employed on the assembly line at a local watch factory and has been employed there for five years. Her hourly wage is $3.25. She would prefer office work of the nature she did in Vietnam, but enjoys the opportunity to get out of the house to work.

Her American husband says it makes no difference to him whether she works or not. She believes that American women have more freedom than do Vietnamese women, because for Vietnamese women the husband is number one! She belongs to the union where she works, but does not take an active part in any organizations because her husband comes first, and after working all day she needs to come home to cook and clean.

This couple is buying their six room home which is very well furnished. She likes living in Little Rock, but would prefer living in the country and having acreage with fruit trees and a garden. She now has a garden in her backyard where she grows many fresh vegetables to use in her Vietnamese dishes which she prepares regularly.

Mrs. M. learned English while in Vietnam and speaks it very well. English is the language used to communicate in their home. She prepares separate meals for herself and her husband, cooking Vietnamese food for herself and American food for her husband.

This couple have no children, but believe that a couple should have only as many as they can take care of adequately. She believes it would be easier to raise children in Vietnam, and that in America children are given too much freedom and are too spoiled. In Vietnam, children show great respect for their parents and stay with them and listen to their advice until they are married and even after they are married. When their parents grow old, they care for them and beg them to come and live in their home when their parents are no longer able to care for themselves. In America, she says parents are sent to nursing homes and she believes this is bad. In Vietnam, children care for their elder parents as their parents once cared for them. After her arrival and employment in the United States, she sent money regularly to her family. Mrs. M. said she felt bad that she was not able to be there to take care of them. She also said she sent extra money whenever there was sickness in the family.

Mrs. M.'s knowledge of the English language, employment outside of the home, and marriage to an American seem to have assisted in the acculturation process. In talking with her, she seems very much like any other American woman. She still holds strong ideas about responsibility to home and family that seem characteristic of her country.

LR - 7

Mr. and Mrs. J. are ages 27 and 24 respectively. Mr. J. was born in My Tho Vietnam, which is a small village, and his wife was born in Saigon. He has eight brothers and sisters, only one of which is now in this country. His wife has six siblings, and two of her sisters are also in this country, one living in the same apartment complex as Mrs. J. and her husband. Both sets of the couple's parents still reside in South Vietnam.

Mr. and Mrs. J., who are Buddhist, arrived in America in April, 1975. Mr. J. stated three reasons for leaving Vietnam. First, he feared for his life since he had been a pilot with the South Vietnamese military during the war. Secondly, he could not live under a Communist run government, and thirdly, he welcomed the opportunity to travel.

Mr. J. has twelve years of education plus his study in the Military service. He has received a grant to attend UALR and is now studying two evening courses in English and French.

Mrs. J. has fourteen years of education, and was a high school teacher in Vietnam. Mr. and Mrs. J. are both employed by "X" products company earning $2.55 per hour, he as a machine operator, and she as a production line worker. Neither of them are pleased with their present occupations. He said he would prefer something along the lines of a radar operator, while she would prefer her former occupation, that of teaching. He is not pleased that his wife has to work because she is unhappy with her present job, and says he would not let her work if he made more money at his job. He did not mind her working in Vietnam because she enjoyed her teaching. He said he believed Vietnamese women had more freedom in Vietnam where they were familiar with the language and customs and thus better able to function in that society.

Mr. J. speaks English, and his wife speaks very little English. However, the church which sponsors them sends an English teacher to their home two nights a week in order to assist her in learning the language. Vietnamese is the language used in their home.

Although they are Buddhist, the church which sponsors them is Baptist and this is the church which they attend every Sunday. They plan to join the church because the church members have been so good to them and have helped them with many things. However, they still consider themselves to be Buddhist, and it seems they will be joining the church out of gratitude rather than because of a revolutionary change in their spiritual beliefs.

Mr. and Mrs. J. were married in 1974 in a Buddhist ceremony. They have no children at present but plan to have about three in the future. Both believe it is better to have fewer children in order to give them more advantages in life. They also believe it would be easier to raise children in Vietnam because everything in America is so expensive. Education in Vietnam is free at the college level.

Mr. and Mrs. J. are renting a four room apartment which is nicely furnished. They like the neighborhood and the city. However, Mr. J. expressed a desire to return to Vietnam if the Communist threat no longer existed, and to possibly work there for the American government.

Since Mr. J. has an automobile (Toyota) and a driver's license, transportation is no problem for the couple. At the present time, they belong to no clubs or organizations, but both express a desire to become American citizens.

Mrs. J. seems to be having difficulty adjusting to American life due mainly to her inability to communicate sufficiently in English, and her dissatisfaction with ner present occupation. She refused to take part in the interview, and excused herself to go to another room. Mr. J. seems to be making a much more satisfactory adjustment to the American way of life, and this seems to be primarily a result of his greater proficiency with the English language which enables him to communicate and to attend classes at the University.

LR - 8

Ms. E., age 25 and two of her brothers, ages 20 and 22, left Saigon, South Vietnam in April of 1975. All the members of their family could not come to America. Born in Phan Thiet, which is near Saigon, their parents worked in Saigon and her brothers were in the military. Their family did, however, live close together. They first went to Guam after leaving South Vietnam, and then on to Fort Chaffee, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. They came to reside in North Little Rock in September of 1975.

They attended school for twelve years in South Vietnam. They are Protestant and have not changed their religion. Ms. E. and her younger brother, live with their sponsor and the oldest brother has an apartment of his own. They enjoy living where they are now and like the city.

When I asked her if she ever intended to go back to South Vietnam she said if there was ever an opportunity to do so, she would, if she were still single. If she marries while in the United States she says she will probably never return to Vietnam. Ms. E. would like to have two children because she feels she could give them more of her time, attention and care. She also feels that compared to Vietnam, America is better suited for the rearing of children because of the economic opportunities and political freedoms Americans have.

At present, they do not belong to any club or association. Ms. E. and her brothers have not had much time to become acquainted with clubs, etc. and really do not know what they have to choose from in the way of such organizations. Given time to study the types of organizations available for membership and the opportunity they profess they might want to join one or two in the future.

Ms. E. and her brothers work for a local watch factory and she feels that the work is adequate but would like secretarial work much better. This is the type of work that she did while working for the United States government during the war in South Vietnam. Her 20 year old brother finished high school when they came to the United States and her 22 year old brother was studying to be an electrician prior to coming to America.

Ms. E. believes that the Vietnamese woman has more liberty in the United States compared to the amount of individual freedom she had in Vietnam.

She and her brothers speak English well. When their sponsor is present they speak only English but when he is not, they speak Vietnamese. She said they would probably attend English classes if such classes were available to them.

They all hope to become American citizens in the near future. They have several things in their favor in not only wanting to become citizens but also assimilating into the American culture:

1. They speak English well.
2. They have work experiences that are applicable in the United States if they can find positions in these areas.
3. One brother has already moved to an apartment and is on his own.
4. They drive cars.

Some factors that could impede the assimilation process for them are:

1. The lack of good job opportunities.
2. They speak Vietnamese to each other instead of English at all times.
3. They have family in Vietnam, and this makes forgetting Vietnam and its customs and traditions all the more difficult for them.

LR - 9

Mr. and Mrs. T., both 40 years of age, left DaNang, South Vietnam on April 20, 1975 with their eight children. Mr. T. was born in DaNang and his wife was born in Quang Nam. Mr. and Mrs. T. attended a portion of the twelve years of schooling offered them in South Vietnam but did not complete all of their high school training.

The eight children's ages range from 2 to 18 years. The oldest daughter, who is 18, was interviewed because the rest of the family spoke little or no English at all. All of the children, who are of school age, are attending various schools throughout the city. They were all born in DaNang, South Vietnam.

Mrs. T. is a housewife and her husband is in Mechanics. They had the same roles while living in Vietnam. They are all Protestant and have not changed their religious beliefs. They attend a Methodist church in North Little Rock, Arkansas every Sunday morning. They have attended one other church since living in North Little Rock and that was at Christmas.

Mr, and Mrs. T. with their eight children, first stopped in Guam and then went to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas after leaving Vietnam. They arrived in North Little Rock on August 19, 1975. The T. family would probably want to return to South Vietnam if the Communist government no longer existed. They are presently renting a three bedroom home and they enjoy living where they are now located.

Mr. and Mrs. T. were married twenty years ago, in a wedding ceremony at home, with all of the family members present. The daughter said that she was not ready to get married.

They feel they all have more opportunities, liberty and freedom in the United States compared to what they had in Vietnam. However, they have not become acquainted with any clubs or associations. They did meet with many of the other Vietnamese families in this area at Christmas. All of the family members want to become American citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. T. are attending classes of some type. But the main language spoken in the home is Vietnamese. They are making an effort to learn English.

Some of the things that will assist the T. family in their assimilation/acculturation process are:

1. They are making an effort to learn English by attending classes, etc.
2. They believe in a democratic society.
3. They realize that there are more opportunities and freedom here, in America, as compared to what they had in Vietnam.

Some factors that could hinder the family's assimilation/acculturation process are:

1. Not speaking English since arriving in the United States and having to deal with an English speaking society can be very frustrating.
2. Only speaking Vietnamese in the home.
3. Not associating with a club or association - only other Vietnamese
4. The thought of ever going back to Vietnam as a future possibility.

LP - 10

Mr. K., 39 years of age, and his wife who is 34 years of age, left DaNang, Vietnam in March of 1975 with their 5 children. Mr. K. was born in North Vietnam and then moved to South Vietnam at the age of 17, in 1954, after the Geneva Peace Conference. Mrs. K. was born in Songuay, South Vietnam. Mr. K.'s mother died in 1947 in an air raid and his father died in 1973. I believe, from what I understood, that Mrs. K.'s parents are also deceased. Their families did live close together in Vietnam. Mr. K. said that in the Vietnamese family, they believed the children should serve their parents once they are old enough and care for the parents.

Mr. K. and his family were very open with me in talking about their family. All members of the family are presently in the United States.

Mr. K. finished the primary grades in North Vietnam and then secondary and high school in South Vietnam. The military duty interrupted his finishing the course of studies in twelve consecutive years, but he did manage to finish and went on to attend one year of law school. After this and up until the time they left Vietnam, Mr. K. worked in Military Intelligence. Mrs. K. finished high school but did not attend school after that. She was a housewife in South Vietnam. The couple speak four languages fluently; Vietnamese, Chinese, French and English.

Mr. K. and his family are all Catholic and have never changed their religion. Mr. K. did mention something aobut studying Confucianism at some time while they were still in Vietnam, but they still were and are staunch Catholics.

Mr. and Mrs. K. became engaged to be married in 1957 and planned to be married in eight years. They finally married in a Catholic ceremony in 1965.

Their children are ages; 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8, (four girls and one boy). Mr. K. said that if there was not a boy in the family it was not considered a "true" Vietnamese family. All of the children were born in a town near DaNang. They like the size family they have now and do not plan to have any more children. Mr. and Mrs. K. spend a lot of time with their children and feel that they can give more time to them by not having any more. Mr. and Mrs. K. feel that they can raise their children easier in the United States because of all the opportunities available to them. The two older children attend Catholic school. Mr. and Mrs. K. work very diligently with all their children in educating them to their new environment and with their school work.

Mr. and Mrs. K. left Vietnam with their five children and other members of the family and first went to Guam. Then, after about one month, went on to Fort Chaffee. Some part of their trip was made by boat and Mr. K. mentioned how dangerous it was, with the little ones. He said that everyone was in such a hurry that they had to carry all the children, to keep them from being hurt or misplaced. Mr. and Mrs. K. reached the United States and Little Rock in October of 1975. They are presently living in a very nice apartment that has three large bedrooms, a large kitchen, living and dining room and two full baths. They have received most of their present possessions, since arriving in Little Rock.

Mr. K. is not a member of a club or association at present, but would like to join a sports club later on. He mentioned that he would particularly like a fishing activity. Mrs. K. belongs to a group called Human Friendship and attends meetings every Tuesday.

Mr. K. is employed at a local watch factory and also works weekends in a appliance store as a repair man. Mr. K. would like another type of job some day. They wish there was more money in their jobs, this being evident in Mr. K. having to work two jobs.

Mrs. K. works at home as a housewife. She believes as does her husband, that she has more liberty and freedom in the United States than she had in Vietnam.

Mr. and Mrs. K. both speak English with great proficiency and the children are learning very quickly, (The two year old can count to ten in English all by herself!). Mr. K. does not feel that he can speak English well enough to speak English with his children all of the time so the main language in the home is Vietnamese. The two children who are in school are learning English but the rest of the family is not going to any type of English class.

Mr. and Mrs. K. and their family attend St. Theresa's Catholic Church and go every Sunday morning. They walk to church now, but Mr. K. took his driving test a couple of weeks ago and soon his family will have a car. They have visited the church that sponsored them, which is St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Mr. K. said that he would not mind visiting Vietnam some day when things are better, but would definitely come back to the United States. They plan to become American citizens and like living in Little Rock very much.

With encouragement, I believe that this family will assimilate into our culture without much problem at all. They do, however, need to have confidence built up in themselves in learning the English language, etc. They all are very intelligent and have the potential to become very productive citizens.

Introduction

The following three Vietnamese families were interviewed in Little Rock and North Little Rock by Diane Weber.

The names were obtained from St. John's Center. Telephone calls were made to each family prior to the interview to set up a time convenient to them. All families responded warmly and graciously and invited her to their homes.

During the course of the interview all members of the family were present and very attentive. Refreshments were served.

The interview was facilitated in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

LR - 11

Ms. L., the oldest daughter in this family was interviewed because she speaks English, her parents do not.

Ms. L. is a 23 year old Vietnamese girl in her third year of college, presently attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. She has two sisters and one brother. Her brother, age 18, attends Catholic High, although her family is Buddhist. She has one sister living in Jacksonville with a friend attending school there, and one sister age 15, attending Poplar Street Junior High in North Little Rock.

Her father and mother are sixty-four and fifty-eight, respectively. They came from a family with eleven children. They arrived in the United States April 26, 1975.

Ms. L. said she was born in Nam-Dish in North Vietnam and later her family moved to South Vietnam. Her family is presently living in a three bedroom apartment which rents for $75.00 a month. The furniture is in good condition, some is new, some used. They have a washer and dryer which is new. All other furniture was furnished them by their sponsor, the Methodist Church.

Ms. L. likes living in their neighborhood, an apartment complex in North Little Rock, but would prefer to live in California, as she has friends there.

Ms. L. believes it is better to have a smaller family as they have more advantages. She thinks it is easier to raise children here than in Vietnam, because here they have a luxury life and everyone can go to school.

She is not a member of any clubs yet, but plans to be, and also would like to vote and become an American citizen.

Her father is currently working as the gardner at Heritage House, a large apartment complex in Little Rock, earning $2.83 per hour. He was formerly a school teacher. He does not speak English at all but plans to learn. Her mother is ill and does not work.

Her brother and two sisters speak English but Vietnamese is always spoken in the home, however, Ms. L. prefers to speak English or French.

They are not members of any church here, but attend the church of their sponsor, a Methodist Church. They have visited the Catholic Church, but have always been Buddhist. She does not know if they will change their religion.

The factors that would assist assimilation are the fact that all the children speak English. They are active in school and church and have no plans to return to Vietnam.

Hindering factors; the father has not made any effort at this time to learn any English, although he says he wants to learn, the mother has not expressed any interest at all in learning English. Vietnamese is spoken in the home, because this is what the parents speak.

LR - 12

Dr. D. age 36 and his wife, age 30, left Vietnam in 1975, because they were afraid of the Communists and did not want to live under Communist rule. They each come from large families, eight and ten siblings respectively.

They were living in Saigon at the time of their departure. They have 18 and 11 years of education, respectively. They have been married 17 years and have two children ages 5 and 1, both sons. They would like to have a daughter later.

It was not clear in the interview exactly where Dr. D.'s parents are. Mrs. D.'s parents are still in Vietnam. She has two brothers in California and one brother still in Vietnam, who is also a doctor. She said during the interview that she had a letter from her brother in Vietnam stating that the Communists treated him very well as a doctor. She would like to return to Vietnam someday. However, Dr. D. does not want to return.

Mrs. D. speaks English, poor to fair, and attends English classes at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. D. speaks English fluently. Dr. D. wants to become an American citizen. However, Mrs. D. was reluctant to indicate her intentions. She feels it would be easier to raise her children in Vietnam among her friends.

Dr. D. had to leave during the interview to attend a meeting at the Medical Center. He is currently employed by the Baptist Hospital and paid a salary of $800.00 per month. Next month, he will be working at the University of Arkansas Medical Center. No reason for the change was given.

They are currently living in a two bedroom, furnished apartment close to the Medical Center for which they pay $160.00 a month with all utilities paid. The furniture appears used but in good condition. The five year old child was watching television during the interview.

They were married in Saigon seven years ago in a Catholic ceremony and have no plans to change their religion.

Even though she believes it would be better to raise her children in Vietnam among old friends, she thinks the educational opportunities here are better and believes in limiting the number of children in order to give them more advantages. She has never been employed and does not plan to work. She is very lonely living here and feels it is taking her a long time to learn English and to make friends. She said she does not like Little Rock and would rather live in Saigon. I think this factor

will hinder her assimilation more than any other. Dr. D. is happy here and is active in his work and outside medical meetings. He drives his own car to work and is confident he will pass his Medical Board Certification in July, 1976. These things will assist his assimilation into American Society.

LR - 13

Dr. G., age 37, lives with his wife, age 34, his mother-in-law and their son, age 6, in a two bedroom, one and one-half bath apartment, close to the Medical Center.

They left Vietnam in 1975, because of the Communist take-over. They were living in Saigon at the time and did not want to raise their child under Communist rule. Mrs. G. has two brothers in Dallas, Texas and the remainder of their families are still in Vietnam, and they have had no word from them.

They were married in 1966 in a Catholic ceremony. Dr. G. says they would like to have one more child, hopefully a girl, but they plan to wait until after he passes his medical accreditations test, which he takes in July of this year. He seemed very apprehensive about taking this test. His salary will be increased if he passes. He is currently employed by the University of Arkansas Medical Center at $700.00 a month. Mrs. G. was a teacher in Vietnam, teaching French. She would like to get a job teaching here as soon as her English improves. She speaks English fairly well and attends English classes at the Medical Center. Her husband speaks English fluently.

They believe in limiting the number of children a family has in order to give them more advantages and they believe it is easier to raise children here, the United States, because of the educational system and freedom of all people. They believe women here have more liberty than in Vietnam and both agree this is very good.

They like American food and would like to eat more of it, but they have not yet learned to prepare it properly. Their son speaks a little English. However, Vietnamese is spoken in their home most of the time.

This family likes Little Rock, have no plans to return to Vietnam, and want to assimilate into the American culture. They attend a Catholic Church regularly. These things will assist them in their assimilation process along with their desire to learn better English.

Dr. G. seems to lack the confidence that he can pass his medical board examinations, however, he is very bright and intelligent.

Introduction

Rick Fleetwood conducted the following interviews during the evening hours at the homes of the individuals and the families. Each interview was conducted in a relaxed atmosphere in the living room with various members of the family present. During the course of the interviews, he was received with gracious hospitality with food and beverage offered in every home. All persons showed great interest in the interviews and were very helpful. The names of the Vietnamese interviewed were supplied by friends and by a local church. The student interviewer has made various trips back to the homes of these Vietnamese families and this experience fostered a friendly relationship that he will be interested in continuing in the days ahead.

LR - 14

Dr. B. is a Vietnamese male born in 1941 in the city of Hanoi, North Vietnam. He later settled in Saigon, South Vietnam. Dr. B. left Vietnam in April 1975 and arrived in Little Rock, Arkansas in October 1975 via a three month stay in Guam and a temporary sojourn at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Dr. B. is a Buddhist and has been married for one year. At present, he has no children, but would like to have three or four in the future.

Dr. B. rents a three bedroom house, and lives with his wife, his mother, and his brothers and sisters. Dr. B. likes the area and enjoys living in Little Rock. He sees very little difference between Saigon and Little Rock and plans to remain settled in Little Rock. Dr. B. has 20 years of education and has earned a Medical Degree, and expects to be certified as a practicing physician here in July, 1976. He was a practicing physician in Saigon before his displacement. After being certified, he expects his salary to be commensurate with his income in Vietnam. Dr. B. is pleased with his present occupation. His wife is not employed.

Dr. B. believes that Vietnamese women have more freedom in the United States than in Vietnam due to their being able to be more active in various elements in the society. Dr. B. speaks excellent English and instructed some English classes in Vietnam. English is practiced in his home at all times, and the whole family works on their English from 8 to 11 p.m. nightly. Dr. B. and his family also attend English classes at the Medical Center twice weekly on Monday and Wednesday nights. Dr. B. likes the friendliness of the American people and has already made many American friends. However, he says that his biggest problem is still the English language.

In closing, Dr. B. seems to be moving forward quite well toward assimilation in the American society, and hopes to become an American citizen in the future. His ability to speak and understand English coupled with his acquiring an American Medical Degree make him an excellent and desireable person appealing to American society.

LR - 15

Mr and Mrs. C.D. were born in Da Nang, located in the northern part of South Vietnam. Mrs. C.D. is 23 years old and her husband is 31 years old. They have two children, one boy 3 years old and another 6 years old. The C.D. family left Vietnam in May 1975 and, after some transition, arrived in Little Rock, Arkansas in August of 1975. The family left Vietnam in search of happiness and a better way of living than in Vietnam. Mrs. C.D.'s mother and three sisters live in Little Rock, and one brother was left behind in Vietnam. Mr. C.D. has one brother in Washington, and his father, mother, and sister are still in Vietnam. Mrs. C.D. has a 10th grade education while Mr. C.D. has a High School education. Both Mr. and Mrs. C.D. like America and Arkansas. They pay rent for a five room apartment, with payments partially subsidized by the United States government. Mr. and Mrs. C.D. have

been married for seven years. Their two sons were born in Da Nang, South Vietnam. They wish to have one more child. Mr. and Mrs. C.D. believe that it is easier to raise children in America than in Vietnam, because of the educational advantages in the United States. Mr. and Mrs. C.D. are members of the local Parent Teachers Organization and intend to become American citizens. Mr. C.D.'s former occupation was with the South Vietnamese Army for seven years and then he was a policeman in Da Nang. He is presently working as a Maintenance man and appreciates his present position, but has a great desire to acquire a better position in another field closer to his former occupations. Mrs. C.D. works in a local company doing unskilled labor. She did not work in Vietnam and her husband does not like for her to work now, but because of their wanting to obtain certain necessities such as a car and etc., he agreed to for her to work now. Mr. and Mrs. C.D. both believe that the woman has more freedom in America than in Vietnam, because of the different roles she is able to play. Both Mr. and Mrs. C.D. speak English, but Mrs. C.D. is somewhat more proficient in speaking and understanding English than her husband. Their children speak little English but are developing their abilities. Vietnamese is the most common language used in the home, but English is being used occasionally. The couple believe that American television has been of great benefit to their pre-school age children in helping to develop the use of the English language. In the hope of developing the family's English speaking abilities, Mr. and Mrs. C.D. also attend English classes on Monday nights for two hours and Wednesday nights for three hours.

Mr. and Mrs. C.D. have already passed the driver's test and have permits to drive.

They differ in their opinions of American food. Mr. C.D. likes American food and Mrs. C.D. is learning to prepare American type food such as hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, etc. However, Mrs. C.D. prefers to cook Vietnamese foods. She mentioned that there was one grocery store that was stocking Vietnamese food items and that she always shopped there. Due to the persistent effort and their advances in learning English,coupled with the desire to make a new life for themselves in America, this family is heading toward assimilation very well.

LR - 16

Mrs. C. was born in Hanoi, a city in North Vietnam of about three million people. Mrs. C. is 45 years old. She has five children; three girls ages 23, 14, and 11 and two sons ages 20 and 17. Mrs. C.'s home before she left South Vietnam was Da Nang, South Vietnam, a city of two million people. In Da Nang, she and her husband owned a grocery store and they were able to make a comfortable living for the family. Mrs. C. and family left Da Nang in March 1975 because of fear of the Communists. Her husband was killed while they were trying to escape and her oldest son was separated from them during the escape attempt. Location of the son is still unknown, but she and five of her children were able to leave South Vietnam unharmed.

Mrs. C., has an education equivalent of the tenth grade level. She does not plan to return to South Vietnam. At present, she is living in a five room apartment. The rent is paid by her and the remainder is subsidized by the United States government. She is contented with her present area of residence, because it is close to her children's school. However, she did say that her family's living standard in South Vietnam was better than what they have now. She likes Little Rock, and said she has no desire to live any place else. Mrs. C. believes that it is easier to bring up children in Vietnam because of her hardship of making money in the United States.

In DaNang Mrs. C. helped to operate the family grocery store and made considerably more money than she is making now. Her present occupation is that of housekeeper. She is not content with her present job. Mrs. C. believes that women in the United States have more freedom than in Vietnam. She stated that in Vietnam women stay home more.

Mrs. C. is trying to improve her English by going to English classes two times a week. Mrs. C. is a member of a local Catholic Church in Little Rock. She has been a Catholic all her life and has never attended another denomination.

Mrs. C. stated that there are many things that she likes about the United States, but that she likes the friendliness of the American people the most. She did state also that her biggest problem now, and since she has been in the United States, is the English language.

In closing, due to Mrs. C.'s economic situation and her difficulty with English, I believe she will assimilate slowly into the mainstream of American society. However, due to her strong will to make it in America and with the help of the children's English speaking ability, assimilation is not impossible.

Introduction

Lee Lindsey conducted the following interviews in the homes of the Vietnamese refugees located in Southwest Little Rock. All were very responsive to the interviews. The names were obtained through a local church.

LR - 17

This family consists of a husband, who was a medical doctor in Vietnam, a wife, and three children. The husband and wife were born in Hanoi, North Vietnam. They left Hanoi in 1975, going to Guam, and from there to Fort Chaffee.

In July of 1975, they were sponsored by the University of Arkansas Medical Center. Their reason for leaving Vietnam was their dislike of Communism.

The doctor graduated from Medical School in 1967. He does not profess a religion of any kind, and does not intend to return to Vietnam. He now lives in Little Rock.

They were married in 1962, in a Vietnamese ceremony. Their children are a son 14 years old, a daughter 12 years old, and a son 2½ years old. The two older children are attending school. The family rents a three bedroom house, with modest furniture. They like Little Rock. All of the children were born in Saigon, South Vietnam. They do not plan to have anymore children. It is their feeling that less children provide for a better education, in comparison with their large families--the husband has eight other brothers and sisters, and the wife has six, all in Vietnam. It is also their feeling that an American education is better for their children.

The wife belongs to the Christian Women's Club of Calvary Church, which meets every Tuesday morning. The husband does not belong to any clubs at this time.

Both the husband and wife plan to vote after they attain their citizenship.

The wife was an Accountant Assistant in Saigon for a United States Agent for International Development. She feels that American women have more freedom than Vietnamese women. The husband has not met any American women, and has no opinion of this.

In the home, they all speak Vietnamese, however, the children understand television very well.

This family of five appears to be adjusting very easily to American life. The wife's English is very good and she talks freely. She says that the husband has helped her very much with her English.

It appears that both are well educated, and this in itself will speed up their acculturation.

The wife seems to be very outgoing and says that her lady friends of the church are very helpful with her adjustment to American life. This, along with her previous work experience in Saigon, will help in the family's acculturation process.

LR - 18

This is a young Vietnamese male nineteen years of age. He was born in Saigon, and is not married. He is living with his brother-in-law, and sister in an apartment complex in southwest Little Rock. At the present time he is a carpenter's helper, at a wage of $2.75 per hour. He had never worked before coming to the United States. He was a student in Saigon. He left Vietnam because he did not like Communism. He says that someday he would like to return to Vietnam.

He says that at this time he has not given a lot of thought to the idea of getting married. He felt that he would like to marry a Vietnamese girl, and raise a boy and a girl. He also felt that he did not know whether it is easier to raise children in Vietnam or in the United States. If he could choose where he could live he says that it would be California. After attaining his citizenship, he says that he will vote in the elections. He says that the American woman has more liberty than the Vietnamese, because in Vietnam the woman belongs to the husband. His English is good, and he says that all the people in the housewhole speak Vietnamese because of preference.

He does not profess any religion at this time but was a Buddhist before he left Vietnam. He attends meetings with a fellow worker, but is not a member of the church. He says that he would like to know more about American Churches.

The rate of acculturation of this young man should be rapid. He seems to be very outgoing and bright. At my first meeting, he was very friendly and smiling. He had begun to grow a mustache and goatee. He introduced himself by a nickname that he has acquired, and seemed ready and eager for conversation. But the main factor that will enhance his chances of assimilation and/or acculturation is that of his age.

LR - 19

This is the case study of a family of five that arrived in Little Rock, Arkansas from Saigon in 1975. The husband is employed at a local watch factory. The reason that they left Vietnam was their fear of Communism. The husband was a soldier in Vietnam, so he feared for his life. He is 32 years old and she is 29 years old. They have three girls; six months, 4 years, and 6 years old. They live in a three bedroom apartment in southwest Little Rock. Both have a high school education. The wife is not employed but says that she would like to work sometime in the future. She is attending class at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, at night. They do not plan to have anymore children. She is one of nine sisters and brothers, and the husband has a older brother in Vietnam. They have no plans to return to Vietnam at any time. After they become citizens of the United States, they do plan to vote.

The husband feels that the American woman has a lot more freedom than the Vietnamese woman, the wife agrees with this. He said he does not mind the wife working. The family speaks Vietnamese around the house, but their English is slow but good.

They do not have a faith at this time, nor did they while they were in Vietnam. They were married in a Vietnamese ceremony. All the members of their families are in Vietnam.

The acculturation of this family will be slow because of the age of the father and the mother, and the inability to move around because of the young children. On the other hand once the children are able to go to school, this will help their acculturation process rapidly.

Introduction

The following three interviews were conducted by Anne Boosey in the Little Rock/North Little Rock Metropolitan area. The names were obtained from a local church sponsor. She was welcomed in the homes and treated graciously by all. Friendships made during the interviews have been lasting ones. The student interviewer was presented a gift of a large original oil painting. Good rapport has been established between the student's family and the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese were presented with publications and maps from the state of Arkansas to show them the beauties of their new environment.

LR - 20

I went to interview Mr. and Mrs. T., but found only Mr. M., the brother-in-law, and the two children at home. A little while later Mr. and Mrs. T. came home and explained to me that since I said night and not P.M., that they had expected me in the morning. After this matter was straightened out, our interview began.

The husband gave his age as 40, wife as 40, and brother-in-law as 29. They were born in Hanoi, Hue, and Saigon respectively. The family is of the Buddhist faith but at the present time are attending the church of their sponsor, Park Hill Presbyterian Church.

The husband and brother-in-law come from large families of six and eight siblings respectively and the wife has 3 siblings. The family arrived in Little Rock after leaving Vietnam in 1975 after completing stops in Singapore, the Philippines, Guam, California and Fort Chaffee.

The brother-in-law's parents have always lived in Saigon and the parents of the husband and wife are deceased. The brother-in-law and husband have both had ten years of education and the wife has had six.

When asked if they planned to return to Vietnam, the brother-in-law said no, along with the wife who gave her reason for staying as wanting her children to have the best of everything. The husband wants to return to Vietnam in the future, for he left his wife and eight children in Vietnam.

The family is being sponsored by Park Hill Presbyterian Church and are renting a six room house in the Levy area of North Little Rock. When asked if they like living in North Little Rock and in Levy, they said they were happy there and could not think of another place they would rather live.

The marriage of the husband and wife was a peculiar one to American culture. The husband, who left a wife and eight children in Vietnam, met his new wife in Fort Chaffee in July, 1975. Their wedding was one of the common-law variety where they confessed their love for one another and declared themselves married. The wife has two daughters in North Little Rock with them, ages 17 and 8 years old. The wife also left a son in Vietnam, 13 years old.

The wife said she was satisfied with three children and wants no more in order to give the children she has more advantages. Her two youngest children were born in Saigon and her oldest in Quinanon.

None of the members of the family belong to a club because none has been made available to them. All but the husband plan to become American citizens.

The husband who was a policeman in Vietnam is now employed by Allis Chalmers for $3.68 an hour. The brother-in-law has changed occupations from a construction worker to engraver at a local jewelry store. The wife still is a housewife who does not work at the present time but hopes to be able to be a seamstress in the near future. The wife believes American women have more freedom than Vietnamese women.

The husband speaks little English but the wife and brother-in-law, and the oldest child speak English relatively well. They do speak Vietnamese in the home but the eight year old prefers to speak English since it is the language of her new friends. The adults are attending English classes.

The family has always been a member of the Buddhist faith but since being in America they have been attending Park Hill Presbyterian Church every week.

This family seems to be assimilating fairly quickly. Although they are not members of any organizations they expressed an interest in joining one if one were made available to them. They did agree to visit with my family over supper one night which shows that they are interested in learning the American way of life. Although at this time they have no car, they hope to have one really soon and this, too proves that they hope to become acculturated soon.

LR - 21

The only people in family D. that speaks English are the 16 year old daughter and the 13 year old cousin. This interview was conducted with the sixteen year old daughter.

The husband is 42 years old and wife is 35. They were born in Hanoi and Da Nang respectively. They are of the Catholic faith.

The husband comes from a family with four children and the mother from a large family with eight children.

They left Vietnam and arrived in Little Rock in 1975 after a brief stop in Guam. Their parents always lived in Da Nang. The husband and wife do plan to take their family back to Vietnam, but at the present are not sure if this will be for a visit or forever.

The husband and wife have had seven and five years of education respectively. They are renting a comfortably furnished eight room home near downtown Little Rock and say they do like it. They would like for the weather to get warmer.

The husband and wife were married in 1958 in a Catholic ceremony in Da Nang. They have ten children ranging in ages from 16 years to 3 months. A cousin also lives with them who is 13 years old. The

wife said she felt a smaller family would be better in order to give the children more advantages. It is easier to raise children in the United States, the wife believes.

The parents are not members of any clubs or organizations. One reason is that they speak no English and the other is that the wife is so busy working from about 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. that they have no time. They do plan to become American citizens.

The husband, who was a soldier in Vietnam, works in Central Baptist Hospital's kitchen for $2.20 an hour. The wife, who was an auctioneer in Vietnam, does not work or intend to work here in the United States.

In the home Vietnamese is the language spoken and the adults find it impossible to attend an English class.

Their family has always been of the Catholic faith and they attend church weekly.

This family does not seem to be assimilating very well at all. The parents cannot attend English classes because they are working or with the children. They cannot join organizations because of the language problem. Until they learn English their assimilation process is at a standstill.

LR - 22

Mr. J., an author and translator of books, aged 44, and Ms. Z., his wife, aged 39, live with their three children in a three room apartment in the Heights area of Little Rock.

The husband and wife are both from Hanoi but came from families of quite different sizes. The husband had twelve brothers and sisters and the wife had two.

The wife and children left Vietnam in April 1975, and were followed three months later by the husband. Leaving their parents in Hanoi, where they had always lived, they first stopped at Guam, then at camp Pendleton and then, Fort Chaffee.

This husband and wife are very educated, having eighteen and twelve years of school respectively. The husband majored in chemistry, physics and botany. They have no idea if they will return to Vietnam or not, they do like it here in Little Rock.

The husband and wife were married in 1964 in a Catholic ceremony. They have two children ages 9 and 4, and one adopted child aged 22 years. The two youngest were born in Saigon and their oldest child was born in Haiphon.

This family believes that it is best to have a small family to give the children more advantages. They feel it is easier to raise children in the United States than in Vietnam and one main advantage is the quality of education.

The wife is a member of the Friendship Club at a nearby church where she is learning to knit and crochet. They meet on a weekly basis. The father has no time available for clubs because of his work and classes that he is enrolled.

The husband, who did research for "The Voice of Freedom in the Orient," is now employed as a computer operator at the University of Arkansas Medical Center for $409.00 a month. The wife babysits for $50 a month and they both seem contented with their jobs.

The wife believes American women have more freedom than Vietnamese women.

The husband and wife speak English very well and the children are still learning. They do speak Vietnamese in the home and would attend English classes if made available. The husband is presently enrolled in a Technology class at UALR and the wife and oldest daughter are enrolled in an Anthropology class at UALR.

The family is Catholic but has visited Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, their sponsor, and Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, since arriving in Little Rock. They attend Holy Souls weekly.

The husband explained that if they had not left Vietnam when they did, his head would have been cut off. He still has memories of his father and brother dying in Communist concentration camps.

This family seemed to enjoy the interview and said that sitting down with an American and talking is the only way they have in learning more about America and English.

I feel that this family is assimilating very well as demonstrated in the facts that they are attending class at UALR to improve their knowledge and to help them to learn to be around Americans easier and to help their English. The wife has shown some interest in joining organizations as shown by her membership in the Friendship club. I feel that within a reasonable length of time this family will be truly assimilated into American society.

Table I is a composite list of the assisting and hindering factors which were found to affect the rate of acculturation/assimilation of the Vietnamese refugees in Little Rock, Arkansas.

TABLE I
FACTORS ASSISTING AND HINDERING THE
ACCULTURATION/ASSIMILATION OF VIETNAMESE
IN
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

ASSISTING FACTORS	HINDERING FACTORS
Speak English	English not proficient
attend classes at UALR	Have desire to return to Vietnam
Have a desire to become an American citizen	Lack good job availability/or good salary
Like Little Rock and America	Speak Vietnamese in Home
Have contacts with American families	Cannot attend classes
Drive car	Have no car
Have desire to learn the American way of life	Work does not allow time to visit any American friends
Interested in clubs and organizations	Eat mostly Vietnamese food
Well educated	Low educational level
Like Job	Lack Job skills
Realize the freedoms in America	Believes Communist propaganda
Have adequate job salary	Lacks self confidence
Children are practicing and learning English	Of Buddhist faith
Attend local church	Age of children
Have help and concern of church sponsor	Age of parents
Worked with Americans in Vietnam	Have no Vietnamese friends

TABLE I (CONT'D)

ASSISTING FACTORS	HINDERING FACTORS
Children doing well in school	Wife does not like to work
Children enjoy TV.	Have limited living quarters
Are young and not set in their ways	Have family back in Vietnam
Eager and outgoing people	
Married to an American	

SUMMARY OF ASSISTING AND HINDERING FACTORS (LITTLE ROCK) FROM TABLE I

A close examination of Table I will indicate that the following are important factors <u>assisting</u> the acculturation/assimilation of the Vietnamese refugees in American society:

A. Ability to speak English

B. The desire to become an American citizen

C. Enjoy living in Little Rock

D. Contact with American families and a desire to learn American customs

E. Ability to drive a car

F. Good education, job skills, adequate employment and income.

Table I indicates that the following are important factors hindering the acculturation/assimilation of the Vietnamese refugees in American society:

A. Lack of English speaking ability

B. The desire to return to Vietnam

C. Lack of adequate employment and/or income; low education and poor job skills

D. Speaking exclusively Vietnamese in the home, and not attending English classes

Section II: Interviews in Grannis, Arkansas

Introduction

Desirous of learning more about the Vietnamese adjustment in a non-urban setting, a town in Arkansas located in a rural area was chosen for the purpose of this research study.

Grannis, a small town comprised of approximately 450 people was selected because of the large concentration of Vietnamese who had been relocated there under the sponsorship of a local industry.

As previously mentioned, several students became interested in the Vietnamese refugees as part of their studies in Sociology dealing with the acculturation/assimilation processes of various groups in American society.

The research was focused in Grannis, Arkansas, where in April 1976 the students conducted interviews with the Vietnamese refugee families living in a mobile home park, set apart from the main community. The majority of these families do not speak English. In order to meet this communication need, three Vietnamese interpreters were recruited to assist the students in the interview process. As in Little Rock, the interviewers were met with a cordial reception in the homes of the Vietnamese.

In accordance with the purposes of this research study, the students went to Grannis in order to compare the adjustment of Vietnamese refugees in a rural area to the adjustment of Vietnamese in an Urban setting, Little Rock. The following case studies represent in detail the findings of the research study.

GR - 23

Both born in Hanoi, this couple was Roman Catholic in faith and had seven children. The husband's age was 44 and the wife's age was 39. They had left North Vietnam in 1954 to move to South Vietnam. They left South Vietnam in the panic of the Communist take-over.

They both have only primary education; therefore, their job skills are very limited. In Vietnam, they had lived in a poor fishing village where he had earned a living as a fisherman and she was a housewife. He now is employed by the local poultry factory as a porter, carrying chickens to the factory from the trucks. She tried to work at the poultry factory to help the family income, but was unable to continue the work because it made her sick to her stomach. Since she is unable to work, their 18 year old son works to help support the family. The wife says she wishes she could work, because they need the extra money to care for their many children. She said that if she were in Vietnam she could work at home by making nets for her husband's fishing.

They said they would like to return to Vietnam in order to be with their relatives and would not object to living under Communism if they only knew they could return safely. They would prefer to live in Vietnam where he could again be a fisherman, or move to the coast somewhere here in the United States where he could fish. He specifically said California or Georgia. He said the type of work he does now makes him feel bad.

They were married in 1954 in a Roman Catholic ceremony and their last child was born in Guam after they left Vietnam. Their oldest son who is 18, just married a 17 year old girl three weeks previous to the interview and the couple is now residing in the same trailer.

They are happy that their children are able to attend school here, but feel that they could learn many more things in Vietnamese schools.

They would like to become American citizens as soon as possible, and the husband said he tried to learn English for months, and was not able to make any progress. The children are learning English in the schools and prefer to speak English, but speak Vietnamese to their parents.

The family attends church every day.

The small amount of education that this couple received seems to be a strong hindering factor in their adjustment to American life, making it hard for them to learn the English language, and therefore, restricting their job skills immensely. This seems to be reflected in their desire to return to Vietnam and the way of life to which they are accustomed.

GR - 24

This Roman Catholic couple are from Buichu, a large city in Vietnam. The husband is age 47 and the wife is age 44. They have ten children ranging in ages from 21 years to 1 1/2 months. However, they had to leave one child behind in the rush to leave Vietnam--a son, 19 years old. They left Vietnam because they feared for their lives, since the father was an officer of the Regional Force (suburban policeman).

Neither of the parents have any education. The youngest children are attending school, but the oldest son and daughter, ages 21 and 16, cannot attend school because they must work to help support the family. Their oldest daughter attended school four months prior to quitting in order to help support the family. The mother does not work, because she has two very young children to care for at home, and the father is a porter at the poultry factory.

Neither of the parents speak English, and the children are learning a little English at school.

They expressed a desire to become American citizens, but also stated that they wished they could return to Vietnam where their family and relatives are if they knew the Communist would not harm them. Although they expressed a desire to return to Vietnam, and complained of the expense of living in Grannis on the wages earned, they said they would be afraid to leave Grannis since the husband has no education, speaks no English, and has no job skills. So despite the expense of living, he is at least happy to have a job.

This couple was married in 1954 in a Roman Catholic ceremony, and their youngest child was born in the United States about 1 1/2 months prior to the interview. They believe it would be easier to raise their children in Vietnam where the children would have less difficulty with school work. They said it was very hard for the children to translate the subject matter, especially in areas such as mathematics. They also believe that the children are taught more in Vietnam. They learn more math an an earlier age, and in addition usually have to learn two languages -- English and French.

Due to the lack of education, this couple seems to be having a harder time making the adjustment to American life. Both accept the situation they are in since they seem to have no other alternatives at this time. Lacking job skills, education, and the ability to speak English seem to be hindering the family's adjustment.

GR - 25

This family is made up of seven children and husband and wife. They live in a modestly furnished trailer. The father was a police officer in Bin Dinh, South Vietnam. He and his wife have high school educations. He left Vietnam with his family because of a threat on his life

by the Communists. He says he would never go back unless the Communists leave Vietnam.

The children range in ages from 29 to 2 years old. The oldest lives in a separate trailer in the village. The children attend Mass every day, the parents only on Sundays. All that are of school age attend school except for an 17 year old who had to quit in order to help support the family, because the plant has cut back the work hours per week.

They were married in 1947 in a small Catholic marriage ceremony in Vietnam. All children were born in Ben Dinh. They are very dissatisfied with the life in Grannis, and the work at the chicken plant. The father works in the packaging of chickens, and the wife cuts them up at $2.40 an hour. The father felt that in Vietnam the women are able to provide better care for family. Neither husband or wife speak any English, the 17 year old speaks fair English and smaller children speak only Vietnamese in the home.

The acculturation of this family will be very slow, because of the rural environment, and the inability to move around, and also the fact that they are unsatisfied with the work at the plant.

GR - 26

This is a very young family of four, from a large seaport in South Vietnam. The family consists of the wife, 25 years old and the husband, 28 years old, 2 children, a girl 6 and a boy 3 years old, both born in Vietnam. They left Vietnam because of their fear of the Communists. Both have some college education.

They like Grannis but would like better jobs. He was a navy officer in Vietnam, and she a primary school teacher. Now the husband is a key punch clerk in the plant, while the wife has quit her job because of the hard work she was required to do.

Their home was very American in appearance. They were married in 1970 in a Catholic ceremony. They do not plan to have any more children because they feel they will be able to provide for the ones they have better. Neither expressed any desire to return to Vietnam at any time. But they do plan to become American citizens. Both speak fair English, and English is used sometimes around the house.

The acculturation of this family should be a swift and easy one. They have a lot of American influences in their life patterns already. As the children grow so will their chances of assimilation.

GR - 27

Mr. and Mrs. V. are 41 and 38 years old respectively. They are of the Catholic faith and were born in North Vietnam. Mr. V.'s four brothers

are still in Vietnam. Mrs. V. has one brother, also still in Vietnam. They left Vietnam in 1975, spent three months in Guam and then traveled to Fort Chaffee, where they spent two months before moving to Grannis, Arkansas in October, where Mr. V. and his daughter had accepted jobs at the poultry factory.

Mrs. V.'s parents are still in Vietnam. Mr. V.'s mother is now in New Orleans, Louisiana, his father is deceased.

They would return to Vietnam if they were given permission and could be sure they would not be killed by the Communist.

Mr. V. and his wife each have four years of education. They live in a four room mobile home in Grannis with their eight children, ages 17 through 1 week. They also had three other children that died in infancy. Seven of their children were born in South Vietnam, and one was born in DeQueen, Arkansas. They plan to have as many children as possible. They believe it is easier to raise children in Vietnam, because there are free public hospitals and food is less expensive.

Mr. V. is employed by the poultry factory earning $2.40 per hour. Due to inflation, his 17 year old daughter has had to quit school and help support the family. She also earns $2.40 per hour. They pay $39.00 a week for their mobile home, plus utilities. Mr. V. is not pleased with his job. He would prefer a mechanic's job.

He has attended English classes since January 1975. However, he speaks English only slightly and believes it is a waste of time to learn words like "Elephant" and "Dock." His job at the poultry factory is very demanding and he does not feel mentally alert enough to attend an English class now after work.

Neither Mr. or Mrs. V. belong to any clubs, they say there just is not time. They attend church every day and believe women have more rights in America than in Vietnam. They are Catholic and have not visited any other church since coming to the United States.

When first arriving in Grannis, the V.'s were very happy to be alive and to be offered a job. However, at this time Mr. V. has grown to dislike his job. He and his wife and eight children are able to pay rent and buy food and that is all. He would like to get out of this low paying job. However, his skills and educational level will not permit this. These factors will hinder his assimilation. Also, his belief in having many children, even though they have few advantages will hinder. They both still have family and friends in Vietnam and would return if things were better, this too will slow the assimilation process.

They are buying some American food and clothes. The children are learning English and at times speak English among themselves. This will aid assimilation. They are also exposed to some negative attitudes toward them, this will most likely hinder assimilation.

GR - 28

Mr. and Mrs. S. are ages 61 and 56 respectively. Mr. S.'s mother, age 92, lives with them and their six children and nephew.

Mr. and Mrs. S. were born in North Vietnam, their children were born in South Vietnam, they are Catholic. Mr. S. has two brothers in Vietnam and one in the United States. Mrs. S. has three still in Vietnam and four in the United States.

They left a fishing village in May, 1975 and arrived here in August. They spent three months at Fort Chaffee before moving to Grannis to take jobs at the poultry factory.

Mrs. S.'s parents are still in South Vietnam. Mr. S.'s father is deceased, his mother lives with them now. Neither has had any formal education. They do not want to return to Vietnam. They like Grannis and being in Arkansas.

They were married in 1945 in a Catholic ceremony. Their children range in age from 28 to 6 years. They do not want anymore children, but they believe large families are best. They believe it is easier to raise children in the United States, because milk can be bought easily. The wife does not have to breast feed, and she can work. They both plan to become United States citizens. However, the 92 year old mother says she feels she is too old to become a citizen.

Both Mr. and Mrs. S. work in the poultry factory at $2.40 per hour. Their hours have been cut from eight to seven hours a day. He hangs chickens up to dry. He says this is very bloody and tiring and causes his arms and head to ache. He is not happy with his job and believes it is unhealthy. He was formerly a fisherman. Mrs. S. removes the gizzards from the chickens. They both work the day shift.

They pay $40.00 a week for a four room mobile home which houses ten people. His rent is deducted from his weekly check at the factory. He pays for utilities.

They attend English classes, but do not believe they are making progress. They still speak Vietnamese at home.

They attend the Catholic Church everyday. While at Fort Chaffee, they visited the Buddhist Church, but will not change the religion.

The assimilation process will be slowed in the S.'s family. Due to his lack of job skills and his dislike for his present job. They use Vietnamese at home and are discouraged with their English class.

They enjoy some American food, are learning to drive, like to watch television. They celebrate American, as well as Vietnamese holidays. This will assist assimilation. They do not have American friends and are exposed to some negative attitudes. This will slow the assimilation process.

GR - 29

Mr. and Mrs. A., ages 28 and 22, left South Vietnam on April 29, 1975 with their two children. Mr. A.'s parents remain in South Vietnam and Mrs. A.'s parents are in Arizona. Mr. A. was born in Nam Dinh, North Vietnam and Mrs. A. has six sisters and brothers. They are all members of the Catholic Church.

After leaving South Vietnam, they went to Florida, then on to Fort Chaffee. They arrived in Grannis, Arkansas in September of 1975. Mr. A. had five years of schooling and Mrs. A. had three years of schooling.

The A.s said that they would return to Vietnam only if the conditions were good. But if they can make a life for themselves here they would prefer to stay.

Their rent on the trailer they are living in is $31.35 per week which does not include their electricity and water. The trailer has a living room-kitchen combination and one bedroom. The appearance of the home was very neat and clean.

Mr. and Mrs. A. enjoy living in the country but because of their salaries would prefer to move to the city where they could earn more. Their salaries are presently $2.45 per hour - 7½ hours a day - 5 day week for Mr. A. and $2.40 per hour - 7 hours a day - 5 day week for Mrs. A.

Mr. and Mrs. A. were married in 1969 in a Vietnamese traditonal Catholic ceremony. They have two children, a boy who is 4 years old and a girl who is 18 months old. Both children were born in Vung Tau, South Vietnam. They said that there was the possibility of having more children but that they wanted to wait until their salaries were better so they could afford to raise their children properly. Their feelings on the size of family and the advantages also depended on their wages. Mr. and Mrs. A. also felt, that compared to now, it was easier to raise their children in South Vietnam, again because their income was more.

They are not members of any clubs or associations. However, they do attend church meetings.

Mr. A. said that he did not care for political type things but that he was very interested in social service work, and that they both would like to become American citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. A. both work at the poultry factory and have separate shifts. Mr. A. works labor and Mrs. A. cuts chicken gizzards. Their previous work in South Vietnam was the military for Mr. A. and Mrs. A. was a housewife.

Mr. A. prefers fishing for his employment. They are both pleased that Mrs. A. is working and they also felt that the liberty for the woman is the same in the United States as in South Vietnam.

They do not speak English well, only a few words, but they are attending the English classes held in Grannis. They do have a desire to learn English. They still prefer to use Vietnamese in the home and the children also speak Vietnamese.

Mr. and Mrs. A. attend the Catholic services in Grannis every Sunday and have visited the DeQueen Catholic Church.

This young couple seemed to have a lot of ambition and concern for their future and assimilation fits in with all of their desires to succeed.

GR - 30

Mr. and Mrs. B. left South Vietnam, April 30, 1975 with their son and part of Mr. B.'s family. Mr. and Mrs. B. are both 20 years of age. They were born in Vung Tau, South Vietnam. Mr. B.'s family, as mentioned previously, is in Grannis, Arkansas living with them. The members living with them are his mother, who is 58 years young and his cousin who is 33 years young. They are also raising his 14 year old niece who is an orphan from the war. Mrs. B.'s family are all still in South Vietnam. Mr. B. has three brothers and sisters and Mrs. B. has five brothers and sisters. They are all members of the Catholic Church.

They lived at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas for three months and then moved to Grannis, Arkansas on September 22, 1975.

Mr. B. had five years of education and Mrs. B. has four. His mother never attended school and his cousin attended five years of school.

They would like to return to Vietnam if the government would accept them and there was peace. Seeing their families still in Vietnam was mentioned.

The rent on the trailer they reside in, is $135.00 per month. This does not include utilities. The trailer has a living-dining room combination and one bedroom and one bath for all six persons. They said that they enjoyed living where they are now but would like to move to Iowa where they have friends. There was a curtain up in the trailer that divided the kitchen from the living area and there was very unique swing set up in the kitchen made of large sticks.

Mr. and Mrs. B. were married in 1971 in a Catholic ceremony. They have one child, a boy who is 20 months old. He was born in Vang Tau, South Vietnam. They would like to have five children and feel that to have a small family gives the children more opportunity and advantages. The B.s also felt that raising children was easier in South Vietnam because of the free clinics for children there and they spoke of how careful they were with the children.

Neither Mr. and Mrs. B. nor any other members of the family are members of any club or association. The reason being that they do not know of any or what they are about.

If they stay in the United States Mr. B. would like to become an American citizen. The others were not sure just exactly what it meant.

Mr. and Mrs. B. and their cousin all work in the poultry factory. Mr. B. takes the intestines from the chicken, Mrs. B. cuts livers and the cousin boxes chickens. The mother does not work at the factory, she stays at home and keeps her grandchild. Mr. and Mrs. B. were formerly worked in the fishing industry in South Vietnam. Presently there salaries are both $2.50 per hour - 7½ hours a day - 5 day week. They are both pleased that Mrs. B. is working and feel that the woman has more liberty in the United States than in South Vietnam.

Mr. B. is the only one in the family that is attending the English classes. The Vietnamese language is used in the home and all prefer to use it, including the children. However, the 14 year old niece is learning English in school.

All of them being Catholic, attend Catholic services in Grannis every Sunday.

This family, whether termed "extended" because of need or culture, has mixed feelings about their new surroundings. With family left in South Vietnam, lack of knowledge of the English language, etc., this could be a probable cause for any mention of ever returning to South Vietnam. This could very easily slow the assimilation process down considerably for them.

GR - 31

Mr. and Mrs. L. were born in Hanoi, North Vietnam. Mr. L. is 39 years of age and Mrs. L. is 36 years old. They left Hanoi in 1954 and moved to a small fishing village near Saigon in South Vietnam. Mr. and Mrs. L. left South Vietnam in April 1975, because they did not like the Communists. Mr. and Mrs. L. arrived in Grannis, Arkansas in October 1975 after a short stay in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. They have six children, two sons, ages 11 and 6 and four daughters, ages 17, 15, 10 and 9. They also have one niece and one nephew living with them. Mr. L.'s mother is still located in South Vietnam and his father is deceased. Mrs. L.'s mother and father are both still located in South Vietnam. Mr. L. has had two years of education, while his wife has had five years of schooling. If conditions were to change in Vietnam, and it would be possible for them to return, they said they would return. Mr. and Mrs. L. do not like living in Grannis, and said they would prefer to live by the sea shore in America. Mr. L. was a fisherman in South Vietnam and would like to be one in America. Mr. L. is working at the present time as an unskilled worker in a factory. Mrs. L.

is also working as a factory employee. Mr. L. does not mind his wife working because he said it was necessary for them to make a living. Mrs. L. was a housewife in Vietnam and helped her husband with the fishing. Mr. and Mrs. L. have been married for twenty years and would like to have as many children as possible. They both believe that it is easier to raise children in the United States, because they do not have to pay for the children's education. In Vietnam, they said for a child to go to school they had to pay tuition.

Mr. and Mrs. L. both believe that women in America have more freedom than in South Vietnam, because for the work his wife does here in the United States, she receives the same pay as her husband. In Vietnam Mr. L. said the woman is not paid equally, and she is not employed in some jobs.

Mr. and Mrs. L. do not speak English, but are attending English classes provided by the government. Their children speak a limited amount of English and Vietnamese is used in the home for convenience. Mr. and Mrs. L. said they liked everything about America except their jobs. They have no American friends.

In closing, due to Mr. and Mrs. L.'s not being able to speak English and not being satisfied with their job, plus their dissatisfaction with where they are living not being near the sea, and not associating with Americans, the process of assimilation may proceed at a slower pace.

GR -32

Mr. and Mrs. D. were born in Bui Chu, a large town located in North Vietnam. Mr. D. is 25 years old and Mrs. D. is 22 years old. They left North Vietnam in 1954 and moved to a small fishing village near Saigon in South Vietnam. Mrs. and Mrs. D. left South Vietnam in April 1975 and arrived in Grannis, Arkansas in October 1975 after a short tenure at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. They left South Vietnam because they said they wanted to live in a free land.

Mr. D.'s father is deceased but his mother is living with them. Mrs. D.'s father is still located in Vietnam, but her mother is living with them. Mr. D. has twelve years of education and Mrs. D. has five years. When asked if they plan to return to Vietnam, they said they were still undecided about returning.

They like living in Grannis, because they said they can work and earn a living. They also like Grannis because it is similar in size to their home in Vietnam. Mr. and Mrs. D. said they do not plan to move from Grannis, but as of this time they do not have any American friends.

Mr. and Mrs. D. have been married for five years and have two

children, one son 4 years old, born in South Vietnam and one daughter, 6 months old, born in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Mr. D. said it was more difficult to raise children in the United States, because at present they are having difficulty with the English language. Mr. and Mrs. D. said if they stayed in the United States, they would like to become American citizens. Both are employed by a factory. In Vietnam, Mr. D. was a fisherman and his wife helped him with the fishing and took care of the home and child. Mr. D. does not like for his wife to work. He wants her to stay home and take care of the children.

They believe that women have the same amount of freedom in South Vietnam as in the United States.

Mr. D. studied English in High School in South Vietnam and was able to understand and speak a limited amount of English. However, Mrs. D. could not understand English. They both are attending English class three times a week provided by the government. Mr. D. now has a car and his driver's permit.

In closing, due to Mr. D.'s being able to understand and speak some English and due to their being satisfied with living in a small town similar in size to their home in Vietnam, conditions are favorable for assimilation. Also, both are content with being employed and making a living within their present occupation. However, Mrs. D.'s not speaking English and both of them not having any American friends can hinder the assimilation process.

GR - 33

Mr. and Mrs. B. are Vietnamese. They were both born in Binh Sa, a small town in North Vietnam. They lived in Saigon before leaving in April 1975, and arrived in Grannis in October 1975. Mr. B. is 56 years old and Mrs. B. is 51 years old. They have five daughters and one son. Mr. B. has two brothers and two sisters. Mrs. B. has one brother and one sister.

Mr. B. said that he could not stay in Vietnam with the Communists because he had been an employee of the United States government.

Mr. B. has five years of education and his wife has had no formal education. They do not intend to return to Vietnam.

They are buying a mobile home for $160.00 a month. They would like to live here, but later they might like to move.

They have been married thirty years and Mr. B. thinks that it would be easier to raise his children in Vietnam than in the United States because of the difficulty of speaking English. He says that later when they learn English, he thinks it will be easier here.

They would like to become American citizens in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. B. work at the poultry factory in Grannis. Mr. B. was an employee of the RMK, an American construction company in Vietnam and Mrs. B. worked for the American club on the base.

Mr. B. likes his job and he likes for his wife to work because he says he does not make enough money to support the family alone. He thinks that in the United States women have the same rights as men.

The couple attend an English class three times a week and English is spoken in the home.

Assimilation for Mr. B.'s family is assisted by the fact that they were American employees in Vietnam, they do not intend to return to Vietnam and Mr. B. likes his job and does not mind his wife working.

He thinks that after the children learn English it will be easier to raise them here. He and his wife are attending English classes and the children are learning it in school. Assimilation is assisted by the fact that some English is spoken in the home and they believe that Vietnamese women have more liberty here, in the United States.

Assimilation is hindered by their low-levels of education and their low income. Although they are attending classes, they have difficulty learning English.

GR - 34

Mr. and Mrs. A. are Vietnamese who arrived in Grannis in September 1975. They were originally from Bui Chu, a large town in North Vietnam. They moved to Saigon in 1954. Mr. A. is 27 years old and has ten brothers and sisters. Mrs. A., 26, has six siblings. Mr. A.'s father stayed in Saigon but his mother lives with them in Grannis.

They came to America because they wanted freedom. They said that if Vietnam were to become free, they would like to return. If Vietnam does not become free again, they will not return. Mr. A. and his wife like living in Grannis, because all the adults in the family can work there. They all work at the poultry plant there. They are purchasing a mobile home for $160.00 a month.

They are Catholic and have been married for eight years. They have four children, one son, 5 years old, and three daughters, ages, 7 years, 4 years and 3 months. The baby was born in DeQueen, Arkansas. One nephew lives with them. They think that four children would be best. They said it is easier to raise children in the United States because they do not have to pay for their children's schooling.

They would both like to become American citizens. Mr. A. was a policeman in Vietnam and Mrs. A. was a housewife. He does not like his job at the poultry plant, because he says it is not professional.

He would like to have a job as a mechanic. He does not like for his wife to work. He says that Vietnamese women have more liberty in the United States because in the United States men and women have the same rights.

Mr. A. speaks a little English and is attending a class. The children can read some English words. They like the freedom of America. They have visited Mr. A's brother in Tyle, Texas.

Assimilation for the A. family is assisted by the fact that he speaks some English. The children can read and pronounce some English. Mr. and Mrs. A. like living in Grannis. They said it was easier to raise their children in America. They both would like to become American citizens. Mr. A. likes the freedom in America. He can drive a car and they have traveled to Texas. These factors assist the assimilation process.

Assimilation is hindered by the fact that they would like to return to Vietnam if it becomes free again. Mr. A. does not like for his wife to work and he does not like his job.

Table II is a composite list of the assisting and hindering factors which were found to affect the rate of acculturation/assimilation of the Vietnamese refugees in Little Rock, Arkansas.

TABLE II
FACTORS ASSISTING AND HINDERING THE
ACCULTURATION/ASSIMILATION OF VIETNAMESE
IN
GRANNIS, ARKANSAS

ASSISTING FACTORS	HINDERING FACTORS
Desire to learn English (children prefer English)	Not proficient in English
Desire to become United States citizens	Job and salary not equivalent to that in South Vietnam
Like Grannis, Arkansas and the United States	Low Education
Drive a car	Few if any American contacts
Enjoy American food and Television	Desire to return to Vietnam
High education	No job skills
Good salary	Immediate family still left in Vietnam
Attend English classes	No car
	Small living quarters
	Unhappy with geographical location
	Children must work and cannot go to school

A glance at Table II shows that the following factors are mainly assisting and impeding the assimilation of the Vietnamese in the rural area.

A.) Major assisting factors:

Desire to learn English
(Children prefer English)

Desire to become United States citizens

Ability to drive a car

Use and enjoyment of television

B.) Major hindering factors:

Lack of English speaking ability

Lack of adequate employment and/or income

Low education

Few, if any, American contacts

Desire to return to Vietnam

TABLE III

FACTORS AFFECTING THE ACCULTURATION/ASSIMILATION OF THE VIETNAMESE IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF ARKANSAS

ASSISTING FACTORS IN LITTLE ROCK	ASSISTING FACTORS IN GRANNIS	HINDERING FACTORS IN LITTLE ROCK	HINDERING FACTORS IN GRANNIS
Ability to speak English	Desire to learn English	Lack of English speaking ability	Lack of English speaking ability
The desire to become an American citizen	Desire to become an American citizen	Desire to return to Vietnam	Lack of adequate employment and/or income
Enjoyment of living in Little Rock	Ability to drive a car	Lack of adequate employment and/or income	Low education
Contact with American families and a desire to learn American ways of life	Enjoyment of American food	Speaking exclusively Vietnamese in the home, and not attending English classes	Few, if any, American contacts
Ability to drive a car	Enjoyment of television	Low education. Poor job skills.	Desire to return to Vietnam
Good education, job skills and adequate employment and income			

SUMMARY

In summary, several factors assisting acculturation/assimilation were found to be common among the refugees relocated in both urban and rural areas of Arkansas; the ability to speak English, the desire to become American citizens, and the ability to drive a car. Contact with American friends and the desire to learn American ways of life are important factors which help the Vietnamese in Little Rock adjust to living in America.

The majority of the Vietnamese refugees interviewed in Little Rock had a good education or good job skills. Adequate employment and income aid in the acculturation/assimilation process.

Several factors which hinder the acculturation/assimilation of the Vietnamese refugees in both Little Rock and Grannis were the lack of English speaking ability, the desire to return to return to Vietnam, the lack of a good education, and the lack of adequate employment. The refugees in Grannis were further hindered by the lack of association with American families.

CONCLUSION

Several conclusions can be drawn from the data collected in this study. Those Vietnamese refugees relocated in a rural area of Arkansas were found to be moving toward acculturation/assimilation at a slower rate than those refugees relocated in urban Arkansas. In both the rural and urban areas, it was found that the younger adult refugees tend to be adjusting more readily to American culture than the older refugees.

The findings show that education has a significant effect on the rate of acculturation/assimilation. Those refugees with a good education are assimilating at a faster rate than those with a low educational level. This holds true for the Vietnamese refugees now living in both urban and rural areas.

Examination of the data shows no significant difference in the rate of acculturation/assimilation for the male and female refugees.

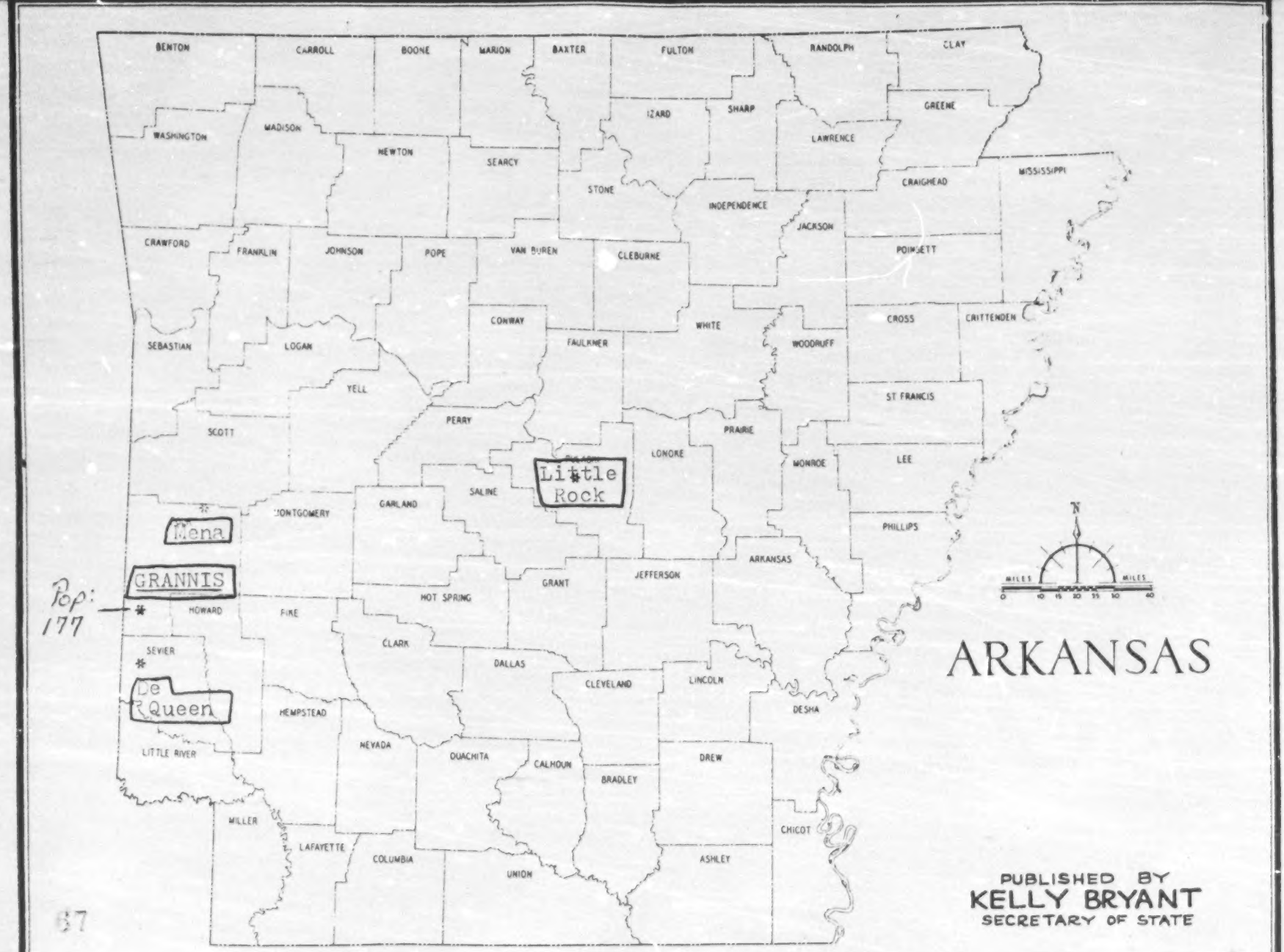
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For the students involved in this research study, the interviews in both the Little Rock area and in Grannis proved to be a worthwhile learning experience as well as an invaluable opportunity to study the assimilation process and further their knowledge in the area of sociological research. The interviews were made easier due to the fact that those Vietnamese interviewed were all very receptive and friendly, and a great amount of rapport was established between the interviewers and the respondents. Hopefully, this research study will add to the total body of knowledge dealing with the assimilation of all groups in American society.

One of the major areas which seems to be making assimilation difficult for the relocated Vietnamese is the inability of many of the adult portion of this group to speak English. If courses in English could be made more easily available to and more functional for these adults, it seems that many of their difficulties in adjustment to American life would be reduced. Although employed, many of the relocated Vietnamese are working at minimal wages on which they are barely able to support their families. In these cases where the families are large in number, the older children of high school age often are unable to complete their education because low family income necessitates their employment. Unable to continue their education, these children will be as limited in their future opportunities as many of their parents are now. Perhaps further knowledge of the English language along with an effort to train these people, who seem to be very hard working and industrious, would

qualify them for better paying and more satisfying positions in which they would be better able to support their families. Efforts in the areas of further education and training could prove very beneficial to this group, along with a more extensive follow-up on each family with an emphasis placed on individual satisfaction.

Hopefully, this study will continue for the next few years in the urban and rural areas of Arkansas to evaluate further the developing trends in the assimilation/acculturation process of the relocated Vietnamese. It would be a great loss to neglect this invaluable opportunity to expand our knowledge of the assimilation process in Human Society.



Pop: 177

-07-

67

67a

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

General Information

1. Age: H_____ W_____
2. Birthplace: H_____ W_____
3. Religion: H_____ W_____
4. Number of Siblings: H_____ W_____
5. Year of leaving Vietnam _____
6. Year of arrival in City _____
7. Why did you leave Vietnam? _____

   _____
8. Places of residence other than Vietnam or City _____

   _____
9. Present and previous residence of parents H_____

   W_____ _____
10. Years of education: H_____ W_____
11. Do you intend to return to Vietnam?_____

Part I:

12. Rent: _____
13. Number of rooms: _____
14. Home furnishings (number and condition):_____

    _____
15. Do you like living in this neighborhood? _____, in city?_____
16. Where would you like to live? _____

    _____

Part II:

17. Year of marriage _____

18. Type of marriage ceremony _____

19. Number of children _____

20. Ages of children _____

21. Birthplace of children _____

22. How many children would you like to have? _____

23. Do you think it would be better to have less children in order to give them more advantages in life? _____ Why? _____

_____

24. Is it easier to raise your children in Vietnam or in the city?

_____

Part III:

25. Are you a member of any club or association? H_____ W_____

26. Do you attend meetings? _____

27. Why do you not want to belong to any club? _____

_____

28. Do you intend to become an American citizen? H_____

W_____

Part IV:

29. Occupation: H_____ W_____

30. Former occupations: H_____ W_____

31. Wage or salary: H_____ W_____

32. Are you pleased with your present occupation or what occupation would you prefer? _____

33. Does your wife work? _____ (a) Type of work_____

_____ Wage _____

34. Are you pleased that your wife is working? _____

Would you like for your wife to work? _____

35. Do you think that the Vietnamese woman has more liberty in Vietnam or in the United States _____

_____

Part V:

Language

36. Do you speak English? H_____ W_____ Children_____

37. What language is used in the home, Vietnamese or English?

_____

38. In families where the children speak both Vietnamese and English, which language do they (the children) prefer to use? _____

39. Do or would you attend an English class if available?_____

Part VI:

Religion

40. What church are you a member? H_____ W_____

_____

41. Have you always been a member of this church? H_____ W_____

42. Have you visited any other church since being in America?_____

43. Have you changed your religion? H_____ W_____

44. Did you change in Vietnam or the United States? H_____

W_____

45. Why did you change religion? H_____ W_____

46. How often do you attend Church? _____

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